

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 04167 101927Z

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8774

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NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR JO US SY XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN-AREA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 192800(TOSEC 2000001)

1. THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES TWO HOUR MEETING WHICH I HAD WITH KING HUSSEIN FOLLOWING HIS RETURN AFTERNOON AUGUST 10 FROM TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE GULF. KING WAS IN TOUCH WITH ME AND ASKED ME TO SEE HIM RIGHT AWAY. EARLIER I HAD RUN OVER WITH CROWN PRINCE IN VERY GENERAL TERMS BASIC ELEMENT MY TALKING POINTS

2. WHEN I SAW KING I GAVE HIM ROUGH OUTLINE THOSE POINTS STILL GERMANE IN REFTEL WHICH HAD ARRIVED IN AMMAN AFTER MY DEPARTURE FOR TEHRAN. I THEN DISCUSSED WITH KING MY TALKING POINTS READING FROM NOTES VERBATIM TO INSURE HIS FULL COMPREHENSION.

3. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT AMBASSADOR MURPHY WOULD BE SEEING ASAD DIRECTLY TO CHECK WITH ASAD VARIOUS REPORTS PASSED ON TO US BY KING.

4. KING SAID HE AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSEMENT OF THE SITUATION AS CONTAINED IN MY TALKING POINTS. HE SAID HE ASSUMED WHEN I TALKED ABOUT PLO IN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 04167 101927Z

TALKING POINTS AND THEIR FUTURE ROLE THAT US WAS NOT

FIXED UPON PRESENT LEADERSHIP. I TOLD HIM WE WERE NOT AND SAW ADVANTAGES IN WEAKENING PRESENT LEADERSHIP NOW TAKING PLACE IN LEBANON.

5. KING REINFORCED FOR ME FOLLOWING POINTS IN HIS OWN ASSESSMENT WHICH HE SAID HE HAD USED WITH SAUDI AND GULF LEADERS--SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE DISASTER FOR SYRIA AND ASAD AND ALSO HAND TERRITORY IN LEBANON TO PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFT, ANY CHANCE OF GOVERNMENT IN SYRIA WOULD BE FORSE FOR OUR INTEREST,"RED CRESCENT" IF ESTABLISHED MIGHT WELL NEXT ENGULF KUWAIT, AND KING SAID HE JUST COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY EGYPT FAILED TO APPRECIATE FULL CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ACTION IN SUPPORTING PLO AND LEFTISTS IN LEBANON.

6. KING THEN TURNED TO HIS SAUDI AND GULF TRIP. HE SAID SAUDIS NOW SEEMED MORE UNDERSTANDING OF SYRIAN ROLE AND HAD REACTED BADLY TO SADAT'S RECENT PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THEM FOR BEING TOO PARSIMONIOUS WITH EGYPT.

7. KING SAID MOOD IN KUWAIT WAS BETTER AND THAT KUWATIS SEEMED CONCERNED ABOUT PALESTINIAN AND IRAQI PROBLEMS IN THEIR AREA.

8. KING THEN CATALOGUED FOR ME SOME OF HIS RECENT PROBLEMS WITH AND REACTIONS TO EGYPT WHICH I WILL REPORT IN SOME DETAIL SUBSEQUENTLY.

9. KING THEN ASKED ME TO COME INTO HIS STUDY AND PUT THROUGH A CALL TO PRESIDENT ASAD. HALF HOUR CONVERSATION THEN ENSURED WITH ASAD.

10. PRINCIPAL POINTS OF INTEREST WERE THAT ASAD SAID HE HAD MET WITH AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM US WITH A NUMBER OF POSITIVE POINTS. ASAD SAID ACCORDING TO THE KING THAT HE HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH THE MEETING. KING THEN SAID THERE HAD BEEN ONE CURIOUS POINT. ASAD SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY MURPHY IF EVERY THING WHICH KING HUSSEIN SAID TO US ON NEHALF OF SYRIA WAS SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 04167 101927Z

TO BE ACCEPTED AS COMING FROM ASAD. ASAD TOLD KING THAT HE HAD REPLIED THAT EVERYTHING KING HUSSEIN PASSED ON WAS REFLECTIVE OF THE CLOSE CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO AND WHETHER IT CAME FROM AMMAN OR DAMASCUS, THE US SHOULD TAKE AS BEING DIRECT FROM ASAD. KING THEN SAID HE TOLD ASAD THAT HE WAS SURE THE AMERICANS WANTED CLOSER DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIM(ASAD) HE SAID HE TOLD ASAD HE THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA AND THAT BOTH CHANNELS TO US (JORDAN

AND SYRIA) SHOULD BE USED.

11. I TOLD THE KING THAT THIS POINT HAD BEEN WHAT I WAS REFERRING TO IN OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION AND HE SAID HE KNOW THAT RIGHT AWAY AND HAD FELT IT USEFUL TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO ASAD THAT HE SHOULD BE IN CLOSER DIRECT TOUCH WITH THE US.

12. VERY BRIEFLY, ASAD TOLD KING THAT HE WAS HAVING A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE WITH EXPLOSIONS IN SYRIA, THAT JUMBLATT WAS INSISTING ON PARTICIPATING IN HIGH LEVEL SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT THE CEASEFURE AS THE ONLY LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEFT THAT THE SHIITE IMAN, MUSA SADR WAS UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AND THAT ASAD HAS ASKED THE CHRISTIAN RIGHTISTS TO RELAX THEIR OVER ACTIVITIES IN COOPERATION WITH THE SHIITES TO REDUCE THE PRESSURE ON THE LATTER AND FINALLY THAT ASAD HIMSELF SEEMED CHEERFUL AND IN QUITE A GOOD MOOD AND HAS SAID THAT ASIDE FROM THE ABOVE POINTS THERE WAS NOTHING REALLY NEW ON LEBANESE SITUATION.

13. KING HAD TOLD ME EARLIER THAT HE WILL BE FLYING BRIEFLY TO IRAN AUGUST 11 ON PLANE TO BRING TO AMMAN EX-KING CONSTANTINE WHO IS NOW VISITING IRAN. HE HOPES TO HAVE A FEW HOURS TO BRIEF THE SHAH ON HIS TRIP AND TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

14. SEPTTEL WILL FOLLOW WITH MORE DETAILS.

15. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT CAIRO AND DAMASCUS. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/10/76
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN04167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: AD: DAMASCUS, CAIRO
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840084-0052, N760006-0237
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760870/aaaacjih.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 192800
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN-AREA DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, JO, US, SY, XF, PLO, (HUSSEIN I), (ASAD, HAFIZ)
To: STATE SS SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006